

REMARKS

Claims 34-37, 40-47 and 49-60 are pending. Claims 1-33, 38, 39 and 48 have been canceled. Claims 61-72 have been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Claims 34, 36, 40-47, 49-53 and 56-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Huang, et al (US 5,588,331). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 34 and 56 have been amended to clarify that the finger contact projection extends in close proximity to a rotational axis of the dial. The distal portion of the dial (30) from the portion (40) in Huang, et al is a tubular member that is spaced a large distance from the rotational axis as a result of having to surround the handlebar. In fact, the existence of the handlebar makes it impossible to have a finger contact projection that extends in close proximity to the rotational axis of the dial. Accordingly, Huang, et al neither disclose nor suggest the presently claimed structure.

Claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawakami, et al, (US 5,601,001). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. Furthermore, there is no requirement in 35 U.S.C. §103(a) that a claimed structure solve any particular problem or be directed to any particular purpose. It is sufficient that the structure be useful and nonobvious. Any alleged precedent to the contrary could result in the denial of patents for completely nonobvious structures. In any event, having a rotatable dial exposed to the outside increases the surface area that could be grasped by the rider, thus facilitating operation of the device.

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above for the same reference.

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Application No.: 09/992,597

Page 5

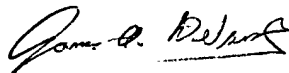
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Claims 34, 36, 37, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler (US 3,965,763) in view of White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed

Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that the rotatable dial is coupled to the base member for rotation coaxially around the rotational axis, and that the finger contact projection extend in close proximity to the rotational axis. The office action interpreted the rotational axis to be the laterally extending portion of the handlebar, which does not provide a coaxial rotational axis for the dial. Furthermore, none of the knobs (32) extend in close proximity to the rotational axis. Since there is no suggestion to modify the Wechsler device to make such arrangements, the foregoing claims should be patentable.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 USC §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 34 and 56 have been amended as follows:

34. (Three Times Amended) A bicycle shift control device comprising:

a base member;

a rotatable dial coupled to the base member for rotation coaxially around a rotational axis, wherein the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside;

a motion limiting structure coupled to the base member and to the rotatable dial that limits a range of rotation of the rotatable dial relative the base member to a predefined arc;

a finger contact projection extending from the rotatable dial in a direction of the rotational axis;

wherein the finger contact projection is structured to prohibit the extension of a finger between all portions of the finger contact projection and the rotatable dial;

wherein the finger contact projection extends in close proximity to the rotational axis; and

a shift element coupler disposed with the rotatable dial.

56. (Twice Amended) A bicycle shift control device for pulling and releasing a control cable wherein the device comprises:

a base member;

a rotatable dial coupled to the base member for rotation around a rotational axis, wherein the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside;

a finger contact projection extending from the rotatable dial in a direction of the rotational axis;

wherein the finger contact projection extends in close proximity to the rotational axis;

a motion limiting structure that limits a range of rotation of the rotatable dial relative the base member to a predefined arc, wherein the rotatable dial moves unobstructively within the predefined arc between a cable pulled position and a cable released position; and

a shift element coupler disposed with the rotatable dial.